

company, which could not be formed without the charter.

The locality of the establishment would entirely depend on the stock holders.—Some might hold forth such inducements as to cause it to be established in their county. We might have had the institution in running order ere this, had we allowed party politics to be the ruling influence of it. We may have been wrong in our views, expecting that such could become a success without the aid of party. We look on both parties as indebted to us even for the steps they have taken to establish the Government Farm, as we have previously said, that it is from our attempts and applications that they established their farm.

Our views on it are to be found in the *Canada Farmer*, before we commenced to publish this paper, and it is only since our agitating the plans and applying for a charter that the Government took up the scheme. If their action in this matter prevents us from enjoying the fruits of our labor, they should remunerate us in some way. Our farm has been more neglected since we commenced the *Emporium*, as our time has been devoted to other subjects. Many things may not have been managed as well as they might have been, still, despite our various trials, and they have been legion, we have the pleasure to say our labors have not been in vain. The farmers in many sections of the country acknowledge the benefits they have received from the *Emporium*.

CIRCULATION OF THE FARMER'S ADVOCATE.

The increasing circulation of the *Advocate* is the strongest testimony to the value the farmers of Canada place on our labors. During the last six months the increase has been greater than in the same period at any time during its existence. This appreciation of our endeavors to serve our brother farmers will have the due effect of our laboring to deserve still more the patronage extended to us, by continued efforts yet more worthy of the support received.

Plaster on Grain Crops.

The other evening we paid a visit to Mr. Practice. Mr. P. enquired for our opinion regarding sowing plaster on grain. He had a piece of light and poor soil sown with oats; the crop was up, but not over vigorous. He wished to know if we considered plaster sowing would benefit the oats if sown at once, the crop being about six inches high.

We replied that our opinion was that it would benefit the crop very materially; we have seen grain crops look much more luxuriant where plaster had been applied. Mr. P. referred us to a report of the French Agricultural College: It stated that plaster of Paris had been given to 20 individuals to test and report its effect on grain; 19 out of the 20 who tried it reported that it was of no advantage whatever to the grain. They had no more in quantity nor was the quality better, but there was an increase in bulk of straw.

This we should take as reliable authority. None pretend to deny that it is advantageous to grasses of all kinds, but the direct application of it to grain appears to be of no benefit to the grain crop.

We have frequently applied it to corn, and always believed it to be beneficial to the crop, and still, despite the report, we feel inclined greatly to believe it to be beneficial to that crop, whether used for seeding or for a grain crop.

Perhaps some of our readers will test this by plastering a few rows of corn, and leaving a few rows unplastered, and measure the land and weigh the grain produced from an equal length of rows or equal number of rods. It is our impression that the corn is longer maturing where plaster is used. Perhaps some of you will aid us with facts from trial.

Breeding Dairy Stock.—Best Grasses for the Dairy.

A correspondent of the *National Live Stock Journal* gives in the journal an interesting report of a discussion on the breeding of Stock for the Dairy, and on the Best Grasses for a Dairy Farm, at a meeting of the Western New York Butter Maker's Association. We give it unbridged, as the subjects are of considerable importance to our readers:—

S. Hall objected to the statement of a writer that "the sire has more influence on the offspring than the dam." Judging from his own experience, he prefers calves from his best cows, while if the qualities of the sire predominated in the offspring, he would naturally look for as good calves from the poorest calves as from the best. Breeding for size as well as for milk, in breeding for the dairy, hay has also been recommended. From this statement also, he differed. As a rule, medium sized cows are most profitable for the dairy. A cow weighing 900 or 1000 pounds is considered of a good size for the dairy; light cows eat less, are more hardy and thrifty, requiring less care in both summer and winter than large cows. He thinks the Short Horns are more suitable for the production of beef than for butter or cheese; for the dairy he would prefer the Alderneys or Ayrshires.

G. P. Wattles considers grade Short Horns—that is, Short Horns raised on what is called Native Cows—an excellent dairy breed. Prefers a medium-sized cow.

T. Hall said the average dairy yield of cows of 1000 pounds is as great as that of cows of 1200 pounds, so that it does not pay to breed for size in dairy cows. He never could make it pay to feed an old dairy cow for beef, the value of the grain consumed in fattening such cattle usually being almost or quite as much as the cows will bring when sold to the butcher. He sells his old cows, as soon as dried off, for just what he can get for them, without fattening.

Dr. Fenner gave his own experience as proving to be erroneous as opinion generally entertained, that a 100 pounds firkin of butter, made from only one cow, is not as good as a firkin made from a dairy of 20 or 30 cows.

The question was asked, if two cows of an equal weight are taken, one of which will eat two quarts of meal and twelve pounds of hay per day, and the other four quarts of meal and fifteen pounds of hay, which will give the most milk? Most of the dairymen said that their best cows for milk were the hardest to winter in good condition.

THE BEST GRASSES FOR THE DAIRY.

E. C. Hart prefers white clover and timothy for pastures, and timothy mixed with red clover for meadows. He gets his best yield of butter from timothy and pasture. White clover is good in the early part of the season, but soon fails; good butter cannot be made from white clover after the seed ripens. Most of the dairymen agreed in the statement, that the best butter, and the most of it can be made from timothy grass or hay. Most of them sow more or less red (medium) clover, valuing the hay made from it very highly, to feed their cows when they are dry. All like a variety of grasses in their pastures, and thought the indigenuous grasses found in old pastures good; these are principally red top, June grass, blue grass, white clover, and some timothy. Red clover gives a bad taste to butter, and is only grown for hay, and as a fertilizer, what is called here June grass (somewhat similar to red top) will run out old grasses in the old pastures. White clover all comes in spontaneously.

From the reports of such meetings as that given above, we see the great utility of Farmers' Clubs, and other similar associations. Every one can learn something useful from the experience of others. We would like to hear frequently from Farmers' Clubs in our own country.

In breeding stock, whether for dairy or

beef, we would certainly be indifferent to the good qualities of either sire or dam; where both parents are good, we may expect good offspring. Defects or blemishes in sire or dam is as sure to be transmitted to the progeny, as points of excellence. The introduction of a good sire into a neighborhood is conferring an inestimable benefit on its people, but it is only by breeding from such a sire, and the very best dams to be procured, that the full extent of that benefit can be realized. The offspring of a good Short Horn Bull, from a good cow, though not Short Horn, is, we need not say, of much higher value than the best indigenuous cattle, not having the blood of the Short Horns or others of the justly prized pure breeds.

Our experience is not adverse to the fattening, even, of old dairy cows; we have found to pay from £3 to £5 sterling for their feeding on flatter pasture for four or five months. If put into the stalls in winter poor, they do not pay so well, as it will require so much valuable food to bring up their condition. We are always careful to put in our stock for stall feeding in good condition, and they were sure to pay a good profit. Ass't. Ed.

Sweet Potatoes.

Having heard that this tuber had been raised in Canada, and that the Potato Bug would not eat it, we sent to Cincinnati for some of the plants. We had previously written to another American seedsman, but could not find a supply.

We have, however, procured 1000 plants, and have them planted in different places. We do this to try if we can raise them here. They require a long, hot summer to raise them to perfection. The plants we procured are about ten inches long and are in a healthy state.

We could not give our general readers the opportunity of procuring them, as it was too late before we found out where to secure them. If they will succeed here we may not be under such a dread of the Potato Bug. You will hear if they succeed with us.

Undeveloped Wealth.

Thunder Bay, Lake Superior, is now attracting considerable attention. The immense amount of silver being sent from Silver Islet is almost fabulous. Several parties left this vicinity last year in quest of fortunes; among the number was Capt. Shore, of Westminster. He was settled on his farm when we arrived in this county thirty years ago. On his farm we found the first sheaf of grain we ever bound in Canada; we have been personally acquainted with him ever since. He is an elderly gentleman now, but with all the vigor of youth. He prides himself in having aided to clear more land than any man in the township. He is well known throughout this portion of the country, and for honor, reliability and whole-souled generosity he stands unsurpassed.

But the glitter of silver ore tempted him to leave his fine estate under the control of his family and try his abilities and judgment among the rocks of Thunder Bay.

What induced him perhaps more than others was that in his youth he learned assaying practically, and believing that his nugget could be found. During the past season, he determined to follow the profession of his youth at Thunder Bay.—Various minerals were brought to him, one of a rich ore was produced. He went to the ground, examined the rock, took from it specimens himself and found the ore rich in silver.

He formed a company and purchased the land, and is now gone again to the land of mineral wealth for the purpose of developing this mine and to continue his assaying.

We know some of our readers are turning their attention to that part of the country and many companies are forming, but the lion's share of the mines are falling into the hands of the Americans. Capt. Shore is a genuine Briton, and is, if possi-

ble, determined to retain a portion of our mineral lands in Canadian hands. But while temptations will be offered by cunning men, we would strongly advise our readers not to invest, however alluring the temptation may be, in Thunder Bay stock, without consultation with Capt. Shore, as he is a practical assayer, and from thirty years' personal knowledge of him, we believe if there is one man in this county who has not been known to stoop to some low, mean act, that person is Capt. Jno. Shore. We do not believe that at his age, and being in comfortable circumstances, he would condescend to lead one astray willingly and knowingly.

The Best Cure for a Cold in Horses.

In conversation with Mr. S. Redmond, an aged, respectable farmer of Delaware, who has for a long time been known as a skilful hand in the treatment of the various diseases of stock, although not a professional, he said the best cure for a cold in horses is to take lard and melt it; as soon as melted and beginning to cool, add turpentine and stir it until cold; add as much turpentine as will keep it in a thick, oily or pasty substance. Take the mixture, rub it well in below the jaws around the neck, as far up as the ears of the horse.—Place an old cloth or bag around the horse's neck, and rub it well with a hot iron.

Mr. Redmond says he has never seen it fail giving relief, and nearly always it has effected a permanent cure. He says he has in several instances effected an immediate cure, even in cases of epizootic.

The remedy appears to us to be deserving of space in this paper, and we feel inclined to try it if we find a horse having a very bad cold.

TO CURE SADDLE GALLS

Mr. Redmond also says he has tried various mixtures to cure saddle or collar galls, cuts and other external injuries.—He says Paraffine is the best substance that can be applied. This may be deserving of greater publicity.

RELIEVING PAIN.

Mr. Redmond's mode of relieving pain may be found useful in many a farm house. Here it is:—Wet the external part of the seat of pain with cold water; then rub on common lamp oil. It will draw the pain to the exterior surface and break out in little eruptions and depart. This may also be often useful.

We may get some more of Mr. Redmond's recipes the next time he calls at our office. If any of you know better, you would be benefitting some poor sufferer by sending them to us for publication.

The Potato Bug.

This pest is making its rapid marches and flights eastward. It will be with great difficulty and constant watching and care that a crop of potatoes can be secured in this vicinity. There is not half the breadth of land planted here that there was last year, and to the west of us they have almost abandoned the attempt to raise them.

A parasite destroys immense numbers of the bugs and their larvae, but the total destruction of the bug does not appear to have taken place where they have once taken possession of a locality. Our eastern friends would do well to attempt the destruction of the advance guard of the potato bug army, as they increase so rapidly, but we think nothing can be done to prevent the farmers in the most eastern parts of Ontario from suffering from their depredations.

There are various washes and mixtures sold throughout the country for their destruction, but as far as we are able to judge, the cheapest and best destroyer is the Paris green; the proportion of mixing should be 30 lbs. of plaster of Paris to one of Paris green. This mixture, applied with a light dredge, will be found sufficient to destroy the bugs on two acres.

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